



Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood Association Board


December 21, 2021

Attendees: Board Members: Bruce Bikle, Phil Cox, Chris Eykamp, Karen Girard, Mark Linehan, Rick Nunno, Kim Nurmi, Jill Riebesehl, Michelle Sprague, Charlene Zaharakis

Guests: Katy Asher (Portland Water Bureau), William Burgel, Bill Levesque (Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association), Jaymee Cuti (Portland Water Bureau), Kelly Davenport (Portland Water Bureau), Heather Flint Chatto (Richmond Neighborhood Association), KOIN Assignment Editor, Linda Nettekoven

Chris, board chair, opened the meeting at 7:00.

Willamette River crossing (Katy Asher - Portland Water Bureau)

- Katy Asher provided an update on the Willamette River Crossing (WRX) project - a project to install an earthquake-proof water main below the Willamette River to get water to the west side of Portland in case of an earthquake.
- The project began in 2019 and is expected to complete in 2024. The WRX is currently in the design phase.
- The Portland Water Bureau is holding an [online open house \(Publicproject.net/wrx\)](https://publicproject.net/wrx) to gather input and respond to questions. The online open house is open for comments through the end of the year. Even after the comment period closes, this information will stay online and be a resource going forward.
- Link to WRX presentation:  WRX 20211221_HAND presentation.pdf
- For more information, view a [WRX Project video](#).

[Portland.gov/water/wrx](https://portland.gov/water/wrx)

503-823-7499

wrx@portland.gov

Railroad (Bill Burgel)

- Bill Burgel, a retired Union Pacific Regional Chief Dispatcher, presented information on the railroad crossing situation which affects so much of SE Portland.
- Bill explained that within the past two years, the length of trains has been doubled, necessitating a much longer time period to build the trains. Trains are now being built up to 15,000' long, which is about 2.8 miles.
- Building a train can take anywhere from 45 minutes to 5 hours, blocking traffic the entire time. The problem continues to get worse.
- The HAND Board discussed the need to find a diversion so cars can bail out when a train is blocking the 11th/12th street crossings.
- Mark made a motion that HAND send a letter to Commissioner Hardesty containing the following points:
 - Need to develop an escape route for vehicles stuck at the 11th Street crossing while a train is being built
 - Better directions to the Viaduct to avoid the train blockage
 - Need for a bridge
 - Invitation for Commissioner Hardesty to join HAND representatives on a tour of how the train crossings affect movement (by transit, car, walking, biking and freight) within SE Portland
- Michelle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Request to pursue grant applications on behalf of Richmond Neighborhood Association (Heather Flint Chatto)

- Heather Flint Chatto joined the HAND meeting to share information about two SE Uplift grant opportunities and request the HAND Board agree to sign on as a partner organization, and consider contributing matching funds should the grant applications be successful.
- The grants would fund part of strategic equity work both for neighborhoods, and the process of determining potential next steps for PDX Main Streets (including potential of nonprofit formation).
- 1) DEIA Capacity Building (\$1,500): PDX Main Streets would collaborate with neighborhood associations and an equity consultant to develop a model Equity Strategic Plan. This will support our organization with a template of strategies and recommended best practices.

Proposal Description: Collaborate with neighborhoods to develop an "DEIA Strategic Plan" as a model for neighborhood associations and community organizations. Leveraging the outreach strategies in the Community outreach grant (below), this project will deepen the tools PDX Main Streets offers by creating a model plan that can

be used by the Richmond Neighborhood Association & Hosford Abernethy Neighborhood District (HAND), and others. Informed by a scan of NA's and Business Associations via online surveys to assess existing DEIA practices and engagement needs, success/challenges of current and past engagement efforts, this will provide a set of recommended strategies and tools any association can use to deepen their equity work on an ongoing level.

- 2) Community Small Grant (\$4,800) scoping/scan/needs assessment of Neighborhood Associations, and under-represented, disenfranchised and marginalized communities. The goal is to identify needs and priorities around planning, design, and development and identify culturally sensitive engagement approaches to ensure we serve communities where the need is greatest to address inequities for under-represented, disenfranchised, and marginalized communities.

Proposal Description: To serve Portland with increased inclusion, diversity and equity, PDX Main Streets will collaborate with neighborhoods and local partners to conduct outreach to under-represented, low-income and BIPOC community organizations. Approaches would include interviews, listening sessions, and a survey of Neighborhood Associations. The project will work to identify needs, challenges and culturally-sensitive approaches that advance more inclusive participation of diverse constituencies in community planning, design, and development. This will help inform PDX Main Streets strategic planning work as our organization evolves to serve broader geographies across the region and help demonstrate what DEIA tools are needed or underway by local neighborhood associations to help foster greater participation, inclusion and diversity.

- The intent is to apply for two SE Uplift grants due January 10, 2022. More information is available here: www.seuplift.org/grants. An additional NE Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN) grant is due January 15th that could be leveraged for the projects above and which are eligible to any group doing work in their area. More info on NECN grants here: www.necoalition.org/grants
- Mark made a motion for HAND to sign on as a partner organization for the grant applications. Phil seconded the motion. Jill offered a friendly amendment to contribute \$500 contingent on successful applications for the DEI grants. The motion passed 7-2.

Board planning (Karen Girard)

- Karen reminded HAND Board members to provide comments on the draft activities and objectives generated during the November meeting. The draft strategic plan is available here: [W HAND strategic plan doc.docx](#)
- Karen will send a link to the HAND Board.

Bob Stacey Crossing - proposed letter

- At the November HAND Board meeting, the Board voted to send a letter to Commissioner Hardesty about the frequency of the elevators being out of service on the Bob Stacey Crossing.
- Chris hadn't sent this letter as it appeared that the elevator and signage situations were OK. Subsequently, they've gone south -- again -- so Chris has drafted another, but similar one.
- Jill moved, and Phil seconded that we send it. The vote was unanimous.

New Year's toast

And, finally, Chris -- responding to a suggestion by Charlene -- proposed a toast. His toast was to "all of you" who have helped this organization and him this year, putting up with his style, etc., etc. There was much more to it and it was perfect. He said how much he appreciated everybody. Charlene added something she'd just heard, that went like this: "One person can make a difference and everyone should try." JFK

It was such a lovely way to end the year. We all wished happy new years all around and signed off.

Notes taken by Karen Girard & Jill Riebesehl